

Pocahontas

8/27/03

Keep thy heart from fainting and thy soul from sleep, Go to the woods and

in Pocahontas County, West Virginia August

HENRY MILLER MOFFETT.

A DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN OF POCAHONTAS.

A Life Sketch of Henry M. Moffett and His Family by W. T. Price.

This eminent citizen bore a prominent part in the early organized history of our county as for a time the assistant and then the successor of Josiah Beard as clerk of the county of Pocahontas.

His ancestry is traceable to John Moffett a pioneer of Augusta

county, and the first recorded mention of this ancestor's name is to the effect that on June 24, 1742 he qualified as a Lieutenant of one of the first military companies raised in Augusta county.

John Moffett's wife was Mary Christian and he settled in the vicinity of the old Stone Church. Sometime previously to 1749, John Moffett left home for North Carolina and was never heard of afterwards. His friends rested in the opinion that he was slain by Indians, whereupon Mrs. Mary Moffett February 28, 1749 qualified to administer on the estate, giving bond for 500 pounds, with her brothers William and Robert Christian as securities.

Col. George Moffett eldest son of John Moffett and Mary Christian was born in 1735.

His wife was a sister of Col. Samuel McDowell of Timber Ridge.

Col. Moffett was prominent in the Indian wars and the Revolution. In civil affairs he was justice of the peace, an elder in the Presbyterian church and one of first trustees of Washington College, Lexington, Va. He died in 1811, aged 76 years and was buried in the Augusta church graveyard near Ft. Defiance station.

her mother by a sash to keep her from falling off. Mrs. Moffett was in the act of dismounting was injured by the sash, and fatal illness developed and she died unexpectedly, when the new house was nearing completion. Mr. Moffett passed away not long after occupying the new residence one of the most commodious of its kind, near Hillsboro, and the property passed into the possession of the late Col. Paul McNeel. Mrs. Edgar the present lady of the mansion is a daughter of Col. McNeel.

Maggie Beall, Mr. Moffett's step-daughter became the wife of the late Dr. George B. Moffett, his youngest brother. Dr. Moffett's son, Robert, resides in Missouri and the other son James holds an important position in the service of the Standard Oil concern. His oldest daughter Hannah and first son James William died very young at the farm home near Huntersville. Sally Gatewood became the wife of Dr. Alexander McChesney for many years resident Physician Warm Springs, Va. and was a Confederate officer in command of one of the cavalry companies of the Bath Squadron. Martha became Mrs. Hall of Barbour County and resides near Philippi, W. Va. Mary Eveline was married to the late Col. William P. Thompson, of New York city. A few years since she died in France, in quest of health. Her remains were brought back to America. These young people casually met at the Curry Spring, near Huntersville, early in the war, and it seems to have been an instance of mutual esteem at first sight. The simple unadorned story of the long wooing that ensued and finally their hurried marriage, when the war was over, would make something

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Annals

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James McDowell Moffett, father of the Pocahontas clerk, was Col. Geo. Moffett's second son, whose wife was Hanna Miller, daughter of Henry Miller the founder of

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Geo. Moffett's second son, whose
wife was Hanna Miller, daughter
of Henry Miller the founder of
Miller's Iron Works near Mossy
Creek, Va., where most of the
iron used by our pioneer black-
smiths was manufactured. Late
in the twenties Mr. Moffett came
to Pocahontas with his widowed
mother and located on the farm
near Huntersville at the opposite
end of the Bridge. Here he re-
sided some years while performing
his official duties. Early in the
thirties he married Mrs. Mary
Nance Beale, relict of Robert
Beale, Esq., who upon Mr. Beal's
death had left Elk and lived on
her farm near Hillsboro now
owned by Frank Harper.
Mrs. Beale was the second
daughter of Major William Poage
once owner of all of Marlins
Bottom, near Marlinton.
Mr. Moffett becoming weary of
official life, sold his Huntersville
property to the late Hugh Mc-
Laughlin, declined re-election to
the clerkship, purchased the farm
owned by Captain Edgar and set-
tled in the Levels about 1838.
James Tallman, his deputy be-
came clerk and served as such
very efficiently for several years.
The office becoming vacant by
Tallman's much lamented death,
Mr. Moffett was reappointed clerk
and returned to Huntersville
about the year 1843 and occupied
a residence at the corner of the
lot now owned by G. W. Ginger.
This residence was burned while
undergoing repairs, soon after it
was vacated by Mr. Moffett's re-
turn to the Levels, at the expira-
tion of his term of office.
His laudable aim now seemed
to be the establishing of an ideal
home for his family to whom he
was so tenderly attached, where
he could pass his last years in the
peaceful quiet pursuits of a rural
life, removed from the verations
and carroding uncertainties of
official service.
Mrs. Moffett was injured by a
frightened horse as she was re-
turning from a visit to friends
near Mill Point one afternoon.
She was carrying her infant son

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ried marriage, when the war was
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Rachel the youngest daughter
became Mrs. Dr. Robert McChes-
ney, a prominent physician, Lewis-
burg, W. Va. George Henry,
the youngest born of this notable
Pocahontas family is so well
known to our readers, that we can
tell them nothing new. He was
a soldier in the Confederate war,
and was a prisoner. Studied law,
and for some years a prominent
member of the Huntersville bar,
returned to the West Va. House
of Delegates and chosen speaker
of that body. He became a dis-
tinguished journalist in Wheeling,
Minneapolis and Portland, Oregon.
At present he occupies an impor-
tant position as attorney for a
railroad system with his office at
Parkersburg.
Henry M. Moffett, Esq. was a
native of Augusta county, related
to the Millers, Christians, Mc-
Cues and other prominent families
of Augusta, Rockingham and
Rockbridge and was held in high
esteem by his distinguished rela-
tives. While James McDowell
Governor of Virginia Mr. Moffett
put a drove of his Pocahontas
cattle into the Richmond market.
The Governor incidentally learn-
ing the fact, looked him up, had
him for a privileged guest at the
executive Mansion, over the Sab-
bath, took him to church in the
morning, led him to his own fam-
ily pew and sat by him through
the services.
Mr. Moffett was crushed by his
bereavement and did not survive
his wife, but a very few years.
He passed away very peacefully
having made a good record in the
service of his adopted county,
that had honored him repeatedly
with the best office in her power
to confer. His grave is in the
old Brick church yard and marked
by a neat marble.
R. E. Beall, advertising mana-
ger of the American Literary
Society, New York, canvassed
Marlinton last week.
T. C. Ware the Apiarist of
Arbovale was in Marlinton last
Monday. He reports the honey
crop, as excellent, a few days
previously, he had taken 1100
pounds of his own at Valley Head,
and 1500 pounds for James Gib-

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